

assessing income. The individual incomes of each member having been added together, this amount is to be divided by the number of members (husband, wife, children, step-children, grandparents, etc.) actually maintained on this income. Abatements of income-tax would be allowed accordingly.

The remaining topics are of only secondary interest to eugenicists, but are discussed with equal thoroughness. The fundamental principle of taxation, according to Mr. Hobson, is that of surplus; any taxation imposed on costs (necessary wages, minimum interest, etc.) is mischievous, and will sooner or later, and with manifold inconvenience, be shifted to this surplus. Mr. Hobson supports a general levy on capital, provided it be regarded as an exceptional emergency measure.

F. H. H.

Corbett-Smith, A. *The Problem of Sex Diseases.* London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd. 2nd Edition; 1919; pp. 104.

THIS little book is dedicated to all young men upon the threshold of life, their fathers and mothers, and is written with an evidently earnest desire to help the boys and those who love them. The author is absolutely outspoken; but his frankness and simplicity, combined with an absence of all that is meretricious, make the book one that we should like to see placed in the hands of all young men. Nothing is shirked. The prevalence of syphilis and gonorrhœa is stated as fairly and accurately as is possible in the present limited state of our statistical knowledge. In the third chapter the symptoms and late effects of syphilis are well described. In the fourth chapter there is a sketch of what is known as "syphilis of the innocent," and the disastrous effects of the disease on married women infected by their husbands are well described. Chapter V. deals with the important but terrible subject of infantile syphilis, and a careful account is given of the influence of the disease both on the infant mortality rate and on the health of children. The same subject is carried further in the next chapter, which deals with the innocent conveyance of contagion in the case of nurses and infants, doctors and midwives. The author quotes several cases illustrative of innocent contagion, and also points out how the disease may be conveyed from the diseased to the healthy by means of industrial employment, *e.g.*, in the case of glass-blowers and wind instrument players. It is true that such accidental infection is less common than might be expected, but it is equally true that it occurs, and also that a little more knowledge and reasonable care would suffice to prevent such disasters.

In Chapter VII. the prevalence of syphilis in various localities is discussed. The author evidently believes that the number of people infected with venereal diseases has been overstated, although he very wisely points out that until the returns of the Registrar-General become more definite any conclusion that may be based on them is liable to error. The same trouble with regard to statistics exists in other countries, and our author thinks that a distinguished continental specialist gave an estimate of so many cases per cent. of the male population of London, and others quoting him have erroneously supposed that it refers to the total population.

The question of our national attitude towards venereal diseases is compared with that of other nations, and we are told that "a Britisher does not talk about women in the same way (as French, German, or Russian students), because he does not think of them like that. It isn't the thing. . . . So long as our men maintain the fine ideal of being 'sportsmen' and of playing the game for their side, not looking on while others do the work, so long will they be the envy of their contemporaries across the water in their freedom from sexual disease."

The book finishes with a letter to an imaginary godson which would well serve as a model to many an anxious father or guardian.